Supply Chain Resilience Strategies in the Wake of Global Disruption: Lessons from 2020–2023

Operations Management & International Business

Difficulty	Intermediate – Advanced	**Recommended Length**	10,000 – 13,000 words
Keywords	supply chain, resilience, nearshoring, dual sourcing, logistics, pandemic disruption	**Academic Support**	AssignProSolution.com

Introduction

The pandemic exposed how fragile just-in-time supply chains actually were when demand surged and production stopped simultaneously. Semiconductor shortages, shipping container bottlenecks, and single-source supplier failures cascaded through industries from automotive to retail. This dissertation examines what firms actually did in response — and whether those responses represent a structural shift in how global supply chains are designed.

Background and Context

For decades, supply chain management prioritised cost efficiency above almost everything else. Lean manufacturing, offshore sourcing, and minimised inventory became orthodoxy. The 2020–2023 period tested those assumptions severely. Firms that had invested in supplier diversification, buffer inventory, and real-time supply chain visibility fared noticeably better than those running the leanest possible operations. The question this dissertation asks is whether firms have actually learned from this — or whether cost pressures are pushing them back toward the same vulnerabilities.

Key Research Questions

1. What specific resilience strategies did UK and European manufacturers adopt between 2020 and 2023?
2. Has nearshoring genuinely increased among FTSE 250 manufacturing firms or remained largely rhetorical?
3. What is the cost premium associated with dual-sourcing strategies and how do firms justify it internally?
4. How have digital supply chain visibility tools changed procurement decision-making in practice?

Suggested Methodology

A combination of case study analysis (selecting three to four firms from contrasting sectors — automotive, electronics, and FMCG work well) and a systematic review of supply chain literature from 2020–2023. Primary data can be gathered through interviews with procurement directors or supply chain managers. Industry reports from Gartner, Deloitte, and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply provide strong secondary data.

Key Theoretical Frameworks

- Resource-Based View — Barney (1991)
- Dynamic Capabilities Framework — Teece, Pisano & Shuen (1997)
- Resilience Engineering — Hollnagel (2011)
- Transaction Cost Economics — Williamson (1985)

Common Challenges and How to Address Them

Firms are often reluctant to discuss supply chain failures publicly — it exposes vulnerabilities and can affect share price. Annual reports and earnings call transcripts are underused secondary sources that often contain more candid supply chain commentary than official press releases. Industry association publications (Make UK, for example) are also useful and more accessible than individual firm interviews.

Conclusion and Next Steps

This topic benefits from being grounded in events that are recent enough to feel relevant but settled enough to analyse with some distance. The best dissertations here avoid the trap of simply describing what happened and instead build a clear argument about what supply chain management should look like going forward — and what the evidence actually supports. Need help structuring your argument? Visit **AssignProSolution.com** for academic writing support.

Need expert help with this dissertation? Get professional academic writing support at **AssignProSolution.com** — proposals, chapter plans, full dissertations, and editing.

© 2025 AssignProSolution.com — For academic reference and inspiration.